



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes** **October 30, 2007 – 9.00am** **Dupage County Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Lori Clark, John Greuling, Kim Uhlig, Gideon Blustein

**Members Absent:** Andre Ashmore, Joe Balasa, Yasmin Bates, George Billows, Bill Browne, Dr. Michael Colky, Dr. Robert Gleeson, Robin Kelly, Sean McCarthy, Cindy McSherry, Harry Pestine, Lila Petett, Angie Powell, Mike Scholefield, Tom Zapler

**Staff Present:** Randy Blankenhorn, Jill Leary, Bola Delano, Bob Dean, Lindsay Banks, Matt Maloney, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reis, Ylda Pineyro

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

### **2.0 Welcome and Introductions**

All attendees introduced themselves

### **3.0 Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes were approved by Lori Clark and seconded by Kim Uhlig

### **4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

The chair expressed disappointment on the lack of attendance by committee members. Randy Blankenhorn said that the input of this committee was essential to the formation of the regional planning process. Randy Blankenhorn further stressed that CMAP needs to have the views of economic and community practitioners on the visioning framework and encouraged members to support and participate in this process.

In conclusion, it was agreed that over the next six months the focus of the committee would be to provide input on the visioning development and any related reports.

In an effort to ensure full involvement it was agreed that staff (Brian) would call all current members to 1) affirm commitment and 2) extend invitations to other organizations that have an interest to participate in the committee.

## **5.0 Regional Plan**

Bob Dean gave an update on the vision statements that were developed on September 12 at the Visioning Event. Bob Dean asked the committee for their comments.

Lori Clark mentioned that all statements as amended had no concept of innovation and suggested that this document and process could be a good opportunity to introduce innovation and make recommendations on how it can be integrated into the context of the regional plan. Gideon Blustein went further to suggest that his should be a priority for all fields. Lori committed to summarize her knowledge of innovation that the State of Illinois has explored and send it to Bob Dean directly.

The committee discussed the region as a whole and suggested that the framework shouldn't solely focus on the City of Chicago in terms of each statement. Bob Dean agreed that interdependence within the region needs to be reflected while acknowledging the city of Chicago.

The role of agricultural land was also highlighted. Kim Uhlig suggested the use of agri-tourism or agri-business to reflect the economic competitiveness of the region's rural area. Bob Dean agreed to take these suggestions back to the drawing board and incorporate them into the draft statements.

## **6.0 Other Business**

In order to ensure more involvement in the visioning process, Bob Dean informed and encouraged the committee members about the online survey found at the CMAP web page: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/survey.aspx>

Gideon Blustein informed the committee about a meeting he attended organized by Sen. Dick Durbin's office of all the district directors in October. It focused on water supply and quality. Gideon said it was a big success and recommended the committee consider topics to do a delegation meeting next year with the end result of educating congressional staff on what economic development is and how important regional planning.

## **7.0 Public Comment**

Julie Samuels of Openlands gave an overview of her organization and expressed concern that the City of Chicago was not at the meeting. She spoke about the new Food Farms and Jobs Act signed by the governor emphasizing how urban farming is growing in and around the city creating jobs, and using land effectively. She said the committee did an excellent job in highlighting the economic development topics. She recommended the need for more involvement from a community development perspective.

**8.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the CMAP offices.

**9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher  
Staff Liaison

11-19-07